

## ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A method for vending fasteners to retail consumers. The fasteners are stocked at a retail outlet in pre-determined locations that are readily identifiable by visible location identifiers. Consumers use software that provides information about the fasteners to facilitate selecting an appropriate fastener product and finding it at the retail outlet. The software is executed by a computer having a graphic interface means for receiving user input. The graphic interface means also displays images of the fasteners and information about their nature and uses. The graphic interface means also displays the location identifiers so the consumers can readily locate the selected fasteners. The consumers are provided public access to the fasteners for self-service shopping prior to payment. In one embodiment the graphic interface means includes a touch screen located at the retail outlet. In an alternate embodiment the graphic interface means includes a personal computer, a monitor and an input device located remote from the retail outlet.